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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

December 20, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: RICHARD T. KENNEDY

SUBJECT: Thieu's Comments on Agreement

1.3(a)(4)

SANITIZED

[ ] asked Thieu if the US was pressuring the GVN to sign the "Dr. Kissinger/Le Duc Tho" agreement and Thieu responded, "Of course." Thieu added that the US would be in a very difficult position if it signed a separate accord, as this would indicate hat the US was acting only in consideration of its own interests and abandoning South Vietnam as an ally.

Thieu [SANITIZED] agreed that it would not be possible for the US to retaliate against North Vietnam if the Kissinger/Tho agreement were violated since the US would not risk having new POW's.

1.3(a)(4)

SANITIZED

[ ] agreed that the US appeared to be "paralyzed" over the matter of its 500 POW's and Thieu observed that when a big power was willing to sacrifice 17 million people for the sake of 500 men, that marked the "end of power."

1.3(a)(4)

Thieu, SANITIZED felt the situation created by the signing of the agreement would be worse than the one resulting from the 1954 Geneva Agreements. He said he had told you that the ceasefire, the return of POW's and the absence of a Communist-imposed government in South Vietnam might look good from 15,000 miles away but the way the problem of a Communist-imposed government had been handled in the agreement would enable the Communists to have a Communist government in South Vietnam within six months.

[redacted]

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By MXO NARA, Date 5/5/93
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